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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Spanish Morocco/Mongler International Zone

DATE DISTR. 18 SEP 50

SUBJECT

Spanish Government Overtures to the

Islah Party

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PLACE

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REPORTATION

- 1. On 25 July 1950, Abdeljalek Torres, the leader of the Islah (Reform) Farty, was approached in Tangier by Lieutenant Colonel CASTILLO (fnu), \* who asserted that he was an emissary of Lieutenant General Jose Enrique VARELA Iglesias, High Commissioner of Spanish Morocco. Torres was informed by CASTILLO that General VARELA would welcome a better understanding with the Spanish Zone Nationalists. CASTILLO suggested that, if Torres and his colleagues would discuss the proposal to negotiate in a conciliatory frame of mind, VARELA would be willing to make concessions on his part.
- 2. On the evening of 25 July, the Islah Party leaders in exile at Tangier, including Abdeljalek Torres, Taieb Bermouna, Mohamed el Mouddin (Mudden), Mehdi Bennouna, and Mohamed ben Mohamed Khatib, decided first to solicit the opinion of other Islah Party members before replying to VARELA's overture.
- 3. Subsequently, several other meetings were held which resulted in an agreement, on or about 5 August, to inform Lieutenant Colonel CASTILLO that the Islah Party would agree to enter into negotiations on the minimum conditions that a new khalifian government would be formed with true Nationalist representation. It would also have to be understood that this new government would be only a transitional phase leading to general elections and the drafting of a constitution. \*\*
- 4. As of 20 August 1950, Lieutemant Colonel CASTILLO had not returned with an answer to the Islah Party communication. The leaders of the Islah Party now are debating the advisability of sending a representative to the High Compassioner to ascertain his intentions in this conciliation attempt.

Comment. Lieutenant Colonel CASTILLO, who is believed to be stationed at Madrid, was once on the staff of General Juan BEIGBEDER 25X1A y Atienza, former High Commissioner at Tetuan.

Comment. Reports have shown that the Islah Party leaders privately have been inclined toward a policy of obtaining limited reforms and concessions rather than demanding immediate independence, but have been tied to the intransigent program of the Istiqlal Party in order to maintain a common Nationalist front for the French and Spanish Zones

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